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Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 19 March 2010 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 130: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Agenda item 138: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*)

Agenda item 141: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272 (*continued*)

Agenda item 142: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*)

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 130: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/64/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.34: Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.34 was adopted.*

Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/C.5/64/L.32)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.32: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.32 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that special political missions were a sensitive matter for many Member States, which had taken a keen interest in how those missions were authorized, in particular, by the Security Council. Moreover, the budgets of such missions had grown exponentially in recent years. Measures should therefore be taken to increase transparency and improve the methods by which those missions were authorized. There should be better communication between the Security Council and the Committee, which was responsible for approving the missions' budgets.

4. His delegation had proposed that the draft resolution should include language stressing the need to present estimates in respect of special political missions in a more comprehensive and holistic manner. It was imperative for budget proposals for special political missions to be submitted on time in order to allow the Committee to make informed decisions on proposals that consumed the lion's share of the regular budget.

5. Although many delegations had expressed their support for that proposal, a few Member States, particularly those that were the strongest supporters of special political missions, had objected that the Committee was asking the Secretariat to do the impossible or that the timing of the proposal was not suitable.

6. The first objection was ironic in view of the number of times the General Assembly had pushed the Secretariat to fulfil new mandates from within existing resources. As to the timing of the proposal, Member States should seize any opportunity to effect improvements that were in the interest of the Organization's primary stakeholders. Member States frequently called on the Organization to be more nimble and responsive and should expect no less of themselves.

Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/64/C.5/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.33: Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.33 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.29)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29: Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272 (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.31)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled the importance of the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in strengthening accountability and oversight throughout the United Nations. The Group hoped that the full implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) would enhance cooperation between management and OIOS. Increased engagement and dialogue among relevant

stakeholders in the Secretariat would enable OIOS to better assist the Secretary-General in carrying out his internal oversight responsibilities.

11. Recalling that the non-renewable five-year term of office of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services would expire in July 2010, the Group urged the Secretary-General to ensure that timely arrangements were made to find a successor in full conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.

Agenda item 142: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.30)

Draft decision A/C.5/64/L.30: Administration of justice at the United Nations

12. *Draft decision A/C.5/64/L.30 was adopted.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

13. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee had been able to reach agreement on all matters thanks to the spirit of cooperation that had prevailed at the first part of the resumed session. He trusted that the Committee would continue its work at the second part of the resumed session in that same spirit.

14. **Mr. Peralta-Momparler** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said his delegation wished to express its satisfaction that the Committee had completed its work within the time allotted and had reached consensus on all matters.

15. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that, thanks to the hard work of all, the Committee had been able to adopt draft resolutions on a number of important matters, including strengthening of the Organization's emergency preparedness, limited budgetary discretion and accountability in the Secretariat.

16. The Group was pleased that agreement had been reached on the general principles of an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, including the obligation of officials at all levels to take responsibility for their decisions and actions and the need to recover monies in respect of any financial losses resulting from fraud.

17. All ongoing discussions within the United Nations system, including those on system-wide coherence, should take into account the role and function of the Committee.

18. The Group looked forward to discussing the Department of Field Support's proposal for a global field support strategy and the proposed budgets of the various peacekeeping operations, in particular the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), at the second part of the resumed sixty-fourth session and trusted that the relevant reports would be available shortly.

19. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that the Committee's handling of the questions of accountability and limited budgetary discretion called to mind an issue that had shaped Member States' perception of the Secretariat throughout the Organization's history.

20. Despite the unjust nature of the international order, it was difficult to imagine a world without the United Nations. The Organization's senior officials should therefore be cognizant of the tremendous responsibility they bore. Those officials must take responsibility for their actions in implementing the decisions of Member States and avoid even the semblance of partiality.

21. It should be recalled that Member States were diverting resources from the public purse that could be used for national economic development in order to fund United Nations programmes and activities. Member States were therefore very attentive to the manner in which those resources were utilized.

22. In that connection, his delegation wished to draw attention to the use of questionable methods by certain delegations and the Secretariat with regard to actions taken in connection with system-wide coherence and the Department of Field Support's proposal for a global field support strategy. Not for the first time, certain Secretariat officials and Member States, unable to achieve their objectives through open and transparent negotiations, had resorted to parallel processes or, in some instances, had blatantly violated established mandates in order to advance their interests.

23. Recalling that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, he urged the Secretariat and

Member States to avoid such methods, which only served to sow mistrust among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat.

24. **Mr. Sugiyama** (Japan) said his delegation wished to express its satisfaction that the Committee had completed its work on time and without deferring any items to the second part of the resumed session. It was also pleased that, in keeping with the Committee's tradition, all draft resolutions had been adopted by consensus.

25. His delegation was gratified that Member States had decided to continue the current arrangements for the exercise of limited discretionary authority by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2010-2011, although it regretted that the amount of the commitment authority had not been increased.

26. After an exchange of courtesies in which **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, **Mr. Mir** (United Kingdom), **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America), **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Brant** (Brazil), **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa) and **Mr. Loy** Hui Chien (Singapore) took part, the **Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.